

ANNUAL REPORT

2015

North Central Regional Transit District



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NCRTD Mission Statement

To provide safe, secure and effective public transportation within North Central New Mexico in order to enhance the quality of life of our citizens by providing mobility options and economic opportunities throughout the region.



NCRTD Vision Statement

To be the leading rural public transportation organization connecting communities and enhancing cultural, environmental, social and economic opportunities for the betterment of our region.

BOARD MEMBERS



Chair
Daniel R. Barrone
Mayor
TOWN OF TAOS
Alternate
Miranda Quintana



Vice Chair
Miguel Chavez
Commissioner
SANTA FE COUNTY
Alternate
Commissioner
Henry Roybal



Treasurer
D. Tim Salazar
Councilor
CITY OF ESPAÑOLA
Alternate
Councilor
John Hernandez



Councilor
Chuck Ring
TOWN OF EDGEWOOD
Alternate
Steven Shepherd
Administrator



Councilor
Pete Sheehey
LOS ALAMOS COUNTY
Alternate
Philo S. Shelton III
Public Works Director



Commissioner
Alex Naranjo
RIO ARRIBA COUNTY
Alternate
Tomas Campos
County Manager



Councilor
Patti Bushee
CITY OF SANTA FE
Alternate
Jon Bulthuis
Transportation Director



Commissioner
Jim Fambro
TAOS COUNTY
Alternate
Leandro R. Cordova
County Manager



Special Projects Director
Tim Vigil
POJOAQUE PUEBLO
Alternate
Cameron Martinez
Facilities Director



Transportation Planning Manager
Christy Van Buren
OHKAY OWINGEH
Alternate
Ben Lujan
Public Works Director



Transportation Planning Director
Lillian Garcia
SAN ILDEFONSO PUEBLO
Alternate
Stephen Martinez
Natural Resources Director



Tribal Sheriff
James Baca
SANTA CLARA PUEBLO
Alternate
Mary Lou Valerio
Transportation Planner



Lieutenant Governor
Arnold Garcia
NAMBÉ PUEBLO
Alternate
Lonnie Montoya
Roads/Transportation Technician



Former Governor
Charles Dorame
TESUQUE PUEBLO
Alternate
Vacant

Ex-Officio Member: Terry Doyle • Rio Metro RTD • Alternate- Elizabeth Carter

DANIEL R. BARRONE, Message from the Chair

Thank you for taking the time to read through the Fiscal Year 2015 annual report for the North Central Regional Transit District. It has been a distinct honor and pleasure to represent the members of our more than 10,000 square mile district encompassing North Central New Mexico and the counties of Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe and Taos. I have been a member of this Board now for eight years and have served as its Chair for four years; first as Taos County Commissioner and now as Mayor of the Town of Taos.

In early FY 2015, we celebrated the 10th Anniversary of our certification as the first Regional Transit District in the State of New Mexico. I am proud to come to you today and be able to say that FY 2015 has been marked by great advancements in financial accounting, new technologies, services, expansion and the creation of a blueprint for a long range strategic plan and vision to guide us into our forth decade.



Our financial and investment practices are more efficient than ever with a clear investment policy, generating above average returns, and financial accounting that has been shown to prove we're good stewards of the public's money.

Our financial and investment practices are more efficient than ever with a clear investment policy, generating above average returns, and financial accounting that has been shown to prove we're good stewards of the public's money. Our fiscal year 2014 financial audit received an Unqualified Opinion with no findings and no carryovers as reported in our Fiscal Year 2014 Independent Auditor's Report verified by the New Mexico State Auditor's office.

On March 16, to coincide with the launch of our Intelligent Transportation System and real-time bus location services, the NCRTD launched a series of new routes, additional stops and time modifications to offer more user-friendly pickup and drop-off times with better connecting options. Highlights include a streamlined early morning and late afternoon commuter option to get workers to Santa Fe from Taos. It also provides for better tourist options throughout the day between the two destinations; expanded stops and service in Los Alamos County with a convenient midday connection to Santa Fe; one day a week service from Tres Piedras in Taos County to the Town of Taos; expanded five-day service to Chama in Rio Arriba County and a midday option; and conversion of the Pojoaque/Nambé route to a dial-a-ride service.

I am personally happy to say that this year we welcomed the Town of Taos as a new member to the NCRTD Board. As a result of this new partnership, this year also saw the consolidation of the Taos Chile Line, now the RTD Chile Line, through an agreement between the NCRTD and the Town of Taos. This consolidation came about after careful evaluation of fiscal and operational impacts of the agreement, while allowing the Town of Taos to save approximately \$187,000 annually.

This year we initiated a system-wide assessment of bus facilities for compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and have begun to implement the modifications. It includes bringing into ADA-compliance bus facilities, stops, shelters and benches in a variety of rural and remote locations throughout the District.

As the fiscal year closed, preparations had begun to launch the RTD Mountain Trail Route, an eight-month pilot program to provide service from the South Capitol Rail Runner Station to points around downtown Santa Fe, up Hyde Park Rd. to the Santa Fe National Forest and Ski Santa Fe with the goal of providing residents and visitors with year-round access to hiking, snow sports and recreational areas along the route.

I would like to acknowledge the committed and hardworking staff of the NCRTD; its dedicated drivers, the management team and the Executive Director. Their hard work and dedication keep the "Blue Bus" on a path that has set a standard for the industry that we could all be proud of.

I remain continually proud and honored to serve on this Board alongside a group of committed and hardworking tribal representatives, elected officials and their staffs, who continue to work cooperatively, and whose sole purpose is to increase transportation options and services to the constituents they represent and serve.

As we took time this past year to reflect on and celebrate where our first ten years have taken us, the Board of Directors of the North Central Regional Transit District take pride in upholding the tenets upon which we were founded: to "provide safe and efficient regional transportation services to transit-dependent groups such as seniors, youth, veterans, low income and mobility-impaired residents, and further to provide residents with access to education, higher paying jobs, medical and quality-of-life services."

Sincerely,



Daniel R. Barrone



Annual Report to the Region

**from Anthony J. Mortillaro,
Executive Director**

During 2015 the Board of Director's adopted the following Vision Statement:

"To be the leading rural public transportation organization connecting communities and enhancing cultural, environmental, social, and economic opportunities for the betterment of our region."

As we share our achievements for fiscal year 2015, you will note that our efforts aligned with this Vision in the roll out of more transportation services, the focus on enhancing connections, implementation of technology enhancements, supporting the economy and environment and our continued diligence to provide exceptional service to the 235,303 residents of the communities we serve in Santa Fe, Taos, Rio Arriba and Taos Counties.

For this fiscal year I am proud to report that the efforts of the District Board and Employees were recognized nationally through its selection as one of six national recipients to receive the Federal Transit Administration Administrator's Award for Outstanding Public Service in Rural Transportation. In addition, the District received the State of New Mexico, Department of Transportation's award for Section 5311 Rural Transit System of the Year.

The aforementioned awards reflect the provision of preeminent service which included the implementation of an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) that went live in March 2015. This system provides enhanced communication capabilities with our customers. The ITS system provides the most up-to-date information to our passengers as to where the bus is in relation to their stop and when it will arrive. Passengers have

access to this information by simply scanning the QR code at their stop or by texting a bus stop specific code that is displayed at each stop. The ability to plan a trip throughout the "Blue Bus" system along with connecting information for Santa Fe Trails, Atomic City Transit, NM Park & Ride and the Rail Runner, will be another amenity that is in the final development stages and should be available in 2016.

During the latter part of FY 2015 the District completed its acquisition of the Taos Chile Line, which was formerly operated by the Town of Taos. The consolidation of this system, provided many benefits to District constituents and Town residents in terms of cost savings related to economies of efficiency, acquisition of field and operational facilities, and elimination of duplicate efforts.

As a component of planning for the next twenty (20) years, the District completed its first ever Long Range Strategic Plan to identify the long-term direction of the NCRTD. The Plan will help the NCRTD prioritize investments and allocate resources in a manner compatible with reaching the goals enumerated therein. In order to ensure that the plan reflected public sentiment, four public Board of Director sessions in discussing and reviewing the various drafts of the Long Range Strategic Plan along with five public workshops within

its four county service area were held.

We are pleased to report that for the upcoming year and considering the fiscal challenges, we were able to maintain existing services, reallocate resources to enhance services and balance our expenditures with nominal use of reserve funds; solely for capital acquisitions and for new routes. The fact that the District could utilize reserve funds for fleet purchases and new routes, is a reflection of its ongoing commitment to being fiscally prudent.

In furthering our commitment to transparency and accountability the District implemented its OpenGov portal so that our constituents will have access to current and past financial data. This is an interactive reporting tool that allows the public to explore the District's financial data online in various, easy-to-use graphical formats selected by the user. The District is one of the first four entities in New Mexico to use OpenGov to access, share, and analyze its financial data.

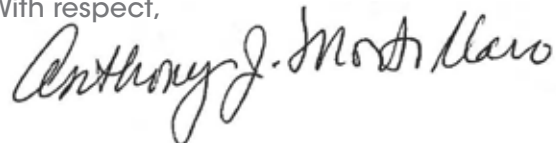
This annual report contains many references to facts and figures, which are important, however, just as important is the customer side of what the District does. The daily services of the District are provided by

a hearty team of customer centric employees, who are thoughtful, experienced, safety minded and committed to the first class transit agency the District is today. As in past years the District has maintained its focus to foster customer excellence to ensure that our attention always remains on you the customer. These values are based upon communication, respect, trustworthiness, dedication and professional excellence.

The District's accomplishments over the past year contained herein continue to affirm our promise to provide the highest quality services to our constituents, to operate in a transparent manner, and a commitment to ongoing collaboration with our riders, member entities and elected officials as a means for establishing the foundation for ongoing success.

Thank you to our Board of Directors, for their continued support, innovation, vitality and forward thinking approach that not only addresses today's challenges, but prepares us for the future.

With respect,

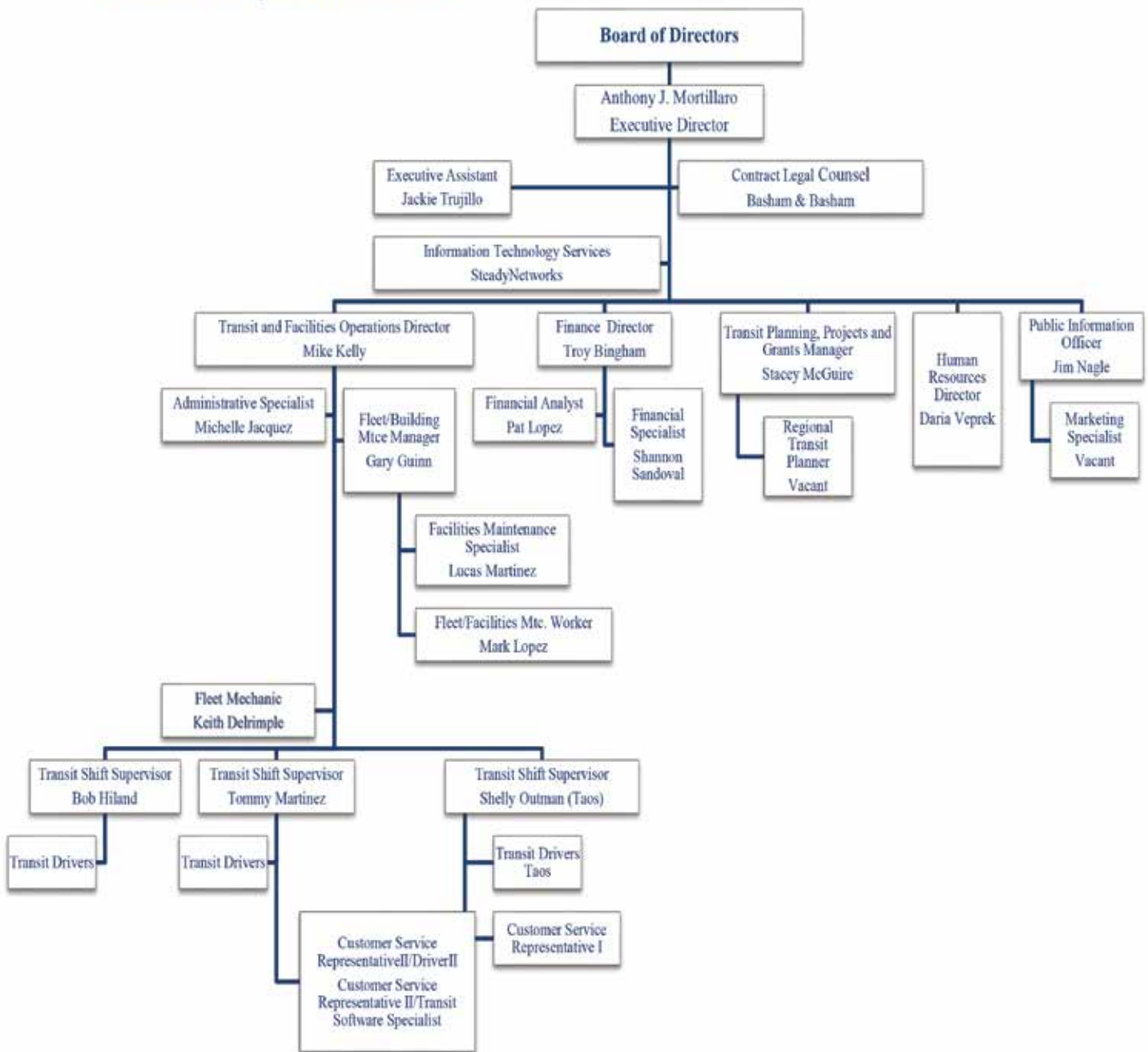


Anthony J. Mortillaro
Executive Director



2015 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

North Central Regional Transit District



2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

In Fiscal Year 2015, the NCRTD Board of Directors worked tirelessly and maintained an active agenda tackling a wide range of items to make the NCRTD run smooth and efficient, and ensure that residents within the District were being well represented. Policies and procedures were established or tightened up to make the District more financially prudent, accountable, well-run and resourceful.

The Finance Subcommittee continued to meet on a monthly basis and the Tribal Subcommittee, as needed, to review matters under its purview and make recommendations to the Board.

This year, a series of 35 Resolutions were adopted by the Board, among them:

- A resolution adopting the Annual Service Plan submitted by the City of Santa Fe and Los Alamos County providing for specific regional routes funded by the Regional Transit Gross Receipts Tax and which they operate

- A resolution in recognition of the 10th Anniversary of the NCRTD's certification as the first regional transit district in the State of New Mexico
- A new Procurement Regulations Policy to provide for the fair and equitable treatment of all persons involved in public purchasing by the NCRTD. The Policy maximizes the purchasing value of public funds and provides safeguards for maintaining a procurement system of quality and integrity
- The adoption of a resolution that allows for fares for premium transit services outside the scope of current operations such as weekends, express routes, etc.
- A resolution of Sponsorship for a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) application and maintenance commitment. The resolution declares the eligibility and intent to submit an application to the NMDOT for Federal Fiscal Year 2016/2017 TAP funds
- Resolution to approve the donation of two obsolete buses to the Taos County Senior Program, and one to Santa Clara Pueblo
- In May, a preliminary FY2016 budget was presented to the Board, opened up to public hearing and then adopted after previously having been reviewed by the Board Finance Subcommittee. The final budget was presented and approved at the June meeting
- Approval of a resolution authorizing the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan
- A resolution adopting a compensation plan and performance increase matrix for non-collective bargaining positions
- That which would adopt an Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan
- A revised charter policy that establishes charter service for government officials and for qualified human service organizations for the purpose of serving a significant number of handicapped passengers; with mobility limitations related to advanced age; with disabilities; or low income

This past year the Board was pleased to welcome the Town of Taos as a new member to the NCRTD Board. The Town named its Mayor, Daniel Barrone, as its representative to sit on the NCRTD Board. As a result, Mayor Barrone, who formerly served as the Board representative for Taos County, retained his seat as Chair of the NCRTD Board. The Board also welcomed three new member representatives: Taos County Commissioner Jim Fambro assumed the seat vacated by Dan Barrone; Tribal Sherriff James Baca succeeds Tribal Sherriff Regis Chavarria representing Santa Clara Pueblo; and Commissioner Alex Naranjo was named to replace Commissioner Barney Trujillo on behalf of Rio Arriba County.



*A series of 35 Resolutions
were adopted by the Board
this past fiscal year.*

FY2015 Financial Highlights*



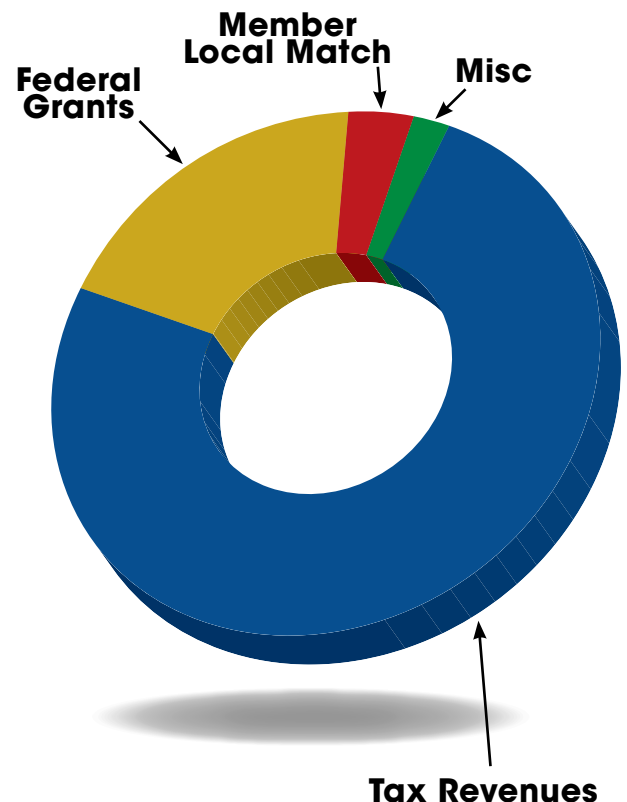
The North Central Regional Transit District (District) operated with a proposed Fiscal Year 2015 budget of \$10.5 million. The District ended the year with revenues exceeding expenditures. Capital purchases were obligated in fiscal year 2015, but were not received until the following fiscal year, which contributed to overall savings in the fiscal year 2015 budget. Revenues were approximately \$9.6 million and expenditures were approximately \$8.9 million resulting in a savings of \$716,965.

Revenue from federal sources were 19% of all revenues and Transit Gross Receipt Taxes generated approximately 75% of the revenues, the member local match from Los Alamos County

was approximately 4% of the budget, while the remaining 2% came from other sources such as the sale of vehicles, fares, interest, bus advertisements and other miscellaneous revenues.

OPERATING REVENUES 7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015

REVENUE	FY 2015 ACTUAL	
Tax Revenues	\$7,246,641	75%
Federal Grants	\$1,840,120	19%
Member Local Match	\$400,000	4%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$126,509	2%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$9,613,270	



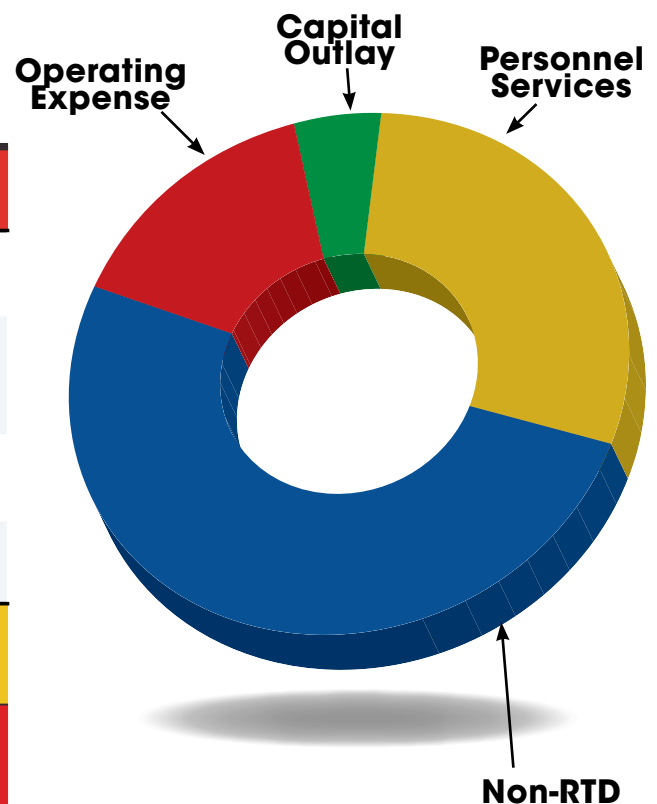
*unaudited financial information

Fiscal year 2015 expenditures totaled \$8.9 million. Personnel services which consists of salaries and benefits comprised 29% of total expenditures, with operating expenses comprising 15%, and capital outlay at 5%. The largest expenditure category, at 51% is related to non-RTD payments made to the NM Rail Runner, Santa Fe Trails and Atomic City Transit in Los Alamos County for providing regional services approved by the District Board.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES

7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015

EXPENSE	FY 2015 ACTUAL	
Personnel Services	\$2,613,655	29%
Non-RTD Rail Runner, City of SF & Los Alamos Co	\$4,511,203	51%
Operating Expense	\$1,290,713	15%
Capital Outlay	\$480,734	5%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$8,896,305	
TOTAL UNDER EXPENSE	\$716,965	



OVERALL

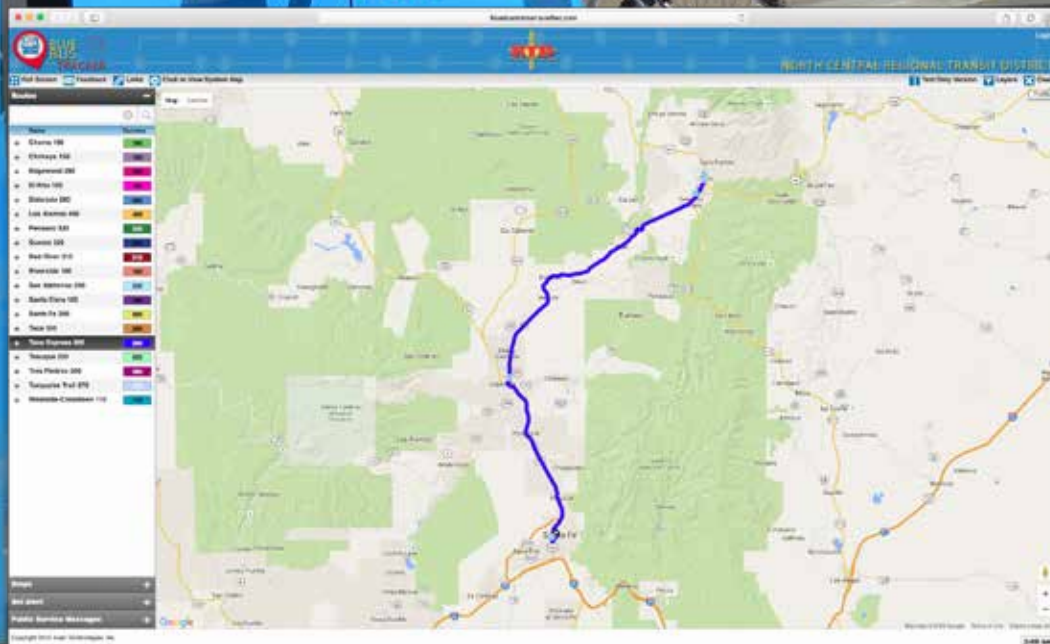
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014, Hinkle + Landers, the District's external auditors, expressed an unmodified opinion. The District is expecting an unmodified opinion for the FY2015 as well.

The NCRTD Finance department oversees and handles all financial aspects that is inclusive of Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Payroll and maintaining the General Ledger.

The Finance Department is also responsible for all the aspects of the District's financial obligations and reporting in relation to grants compliance and procurements.

A high standard of excellence drives the District's Finance Department to provide outstanding levels of support, service, and products and is committed to conforming to the highest level of ethical standards.

THE NCRTD LAUNCHES HI-TECH BUS LOCATOR AND ROLLS-OUT IMPROVED ROUTES AND SCHEDULES ON ITS RTD “BLUE BUSES”



On March 16th, the North Central Regional Transit District underwent a massive shift in services and offerings on its RTD “Blue Buses.” In addition to adding new routes, additional stops, and featuring more user-friendly pickup and drop-off times and connecting options, NCRTD unveiled its Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), which will provide real-time bus location services accessible by smartphone, tablet or computer.

A mobile app, called “myStop” now serves as a “Blue Bus Tracker,” giving riders GPS-enabled real time updates on bus location, routes and schedules. Signs are now installed at each RTD bus stop and features a QR code and phone text information to find out exactly where your bus is and also when the next three buses will arrive at your stop.

The updated technology allows riders the freedom to plan their day with certainty and takes the guesswork out of taking the bus, while the enhanced routes are now designed to make the commute or travel process using the Blue Bus more user-friendly, efficient, and thorough, regardless of what one’s travel needs might be.

Some highlights of the modified routes include: a Taos to Santa Fe morning and evening commuter bus featuring streamlined service and no change of bus in Española; extended service to Golden in south Santa Fe County on Wednesday on the Turquoise Trail route, offered on a trial basis; a trial midday service from Santa Fe to Edgewood and Eldorado; expanded stops and service in Los Alamos County and an easy midday connection to Santa Fe; new one day per week (Wednesday) service from Tres Piedras to Taos; expanded five-day-per-week Chama to Española service; better service options and connections to El Rito and Ojo Caliente; conversion of Pojoaque-Nambé Route to a dial-a-ride service; and more. The NCRTD has also begun to operate the Taos Express, providing weekend express service between Taos, Española and Santa Fe for a nominal fee.

A re-designed, more user friendly NCRTD website, RidetheBlueBus.com (NCRTD.org), was also launched on March 16.

The service and route enhancements were developed as a result of the NCRTD’s five-year transit service plan for improving rider experiences.

RTD NOW PROVIDES SERVICE TO ALL EIGHT NORTHERN NEW MEXICO PUEBLOS

As FY2015 came to a close, the NCRTD was proud to provide service to each of New Mexico’s Eight Northern Pueblos. The Pueblos of Pojoaque, Nambé, Tesuque, Ohkay Owingeh, San Ildefonso and Santa Clara each remain NCRTD members and have their own routes that provide connections throughout the RTD service area. With the consolidation and launch of the RTD Chile Line in Taos the District is now serving Taos Pueblo and Picuris Pueblo is now served on the Peñasco route to the Town of Taos.

BLUE CONNECTS YOU
NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT

New enhanced Routes and Schedules get you where you want to go!

RTD
RIDE THE BLUE BUS

Bus Locations, Routes & Schedules on your devices

www.RidetheBlueBus.com

Never miss the Blue again with LIVE Bus Locations on the RTD myStop Mobile Blue Bus Tracker App FREE download

NCRTD LONG RANGE STRATEGIC PLAN

SETS A BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

In the 8 years since the North Central Regional Transit District first began providing bus service, the agency has accomplished much to be proud of, including increasing fixed-route transit service and funding for transit throughout the four-county service area; maintaining a fare-free bus service; operating dial-a-ride service; taking over the Taos Express and the Chile Line; experiencing an all-time high in ridership; and providing improved access to work and educational opportunities, as well as basic quality-of-life services.

After accomplishing many of its goals during its initial years, NCRTD's leadership expressed a desire to create a strategic plan and vision that could guide and focus the District's efforts. The plan is intended to develop a clear path to the future for transit service in NCRTD's four-county service area for the next twenty years. This plan will help NCRTD prioritize investments and allocate resources in a manner compatible with reaching the organization's goals.

As we move forward, we will need broad-based public support for this plan to be successful

A strategic plan is used to prioritize investments to help an organization achieve its goals

The Process

1.
Establish Mission

2.
Issues / Challenges

3.
Goals

4.
Funding

5.
Prioritization

The process of developing the NCRTD strategic plan was completed over approximately nine months and represents a collaborative effort that actively included NCRTD Board members, RTD Staff, several public input sessions, and other stakeholders, to create a long-term strategic vision for addressing future transportation needs in the region.

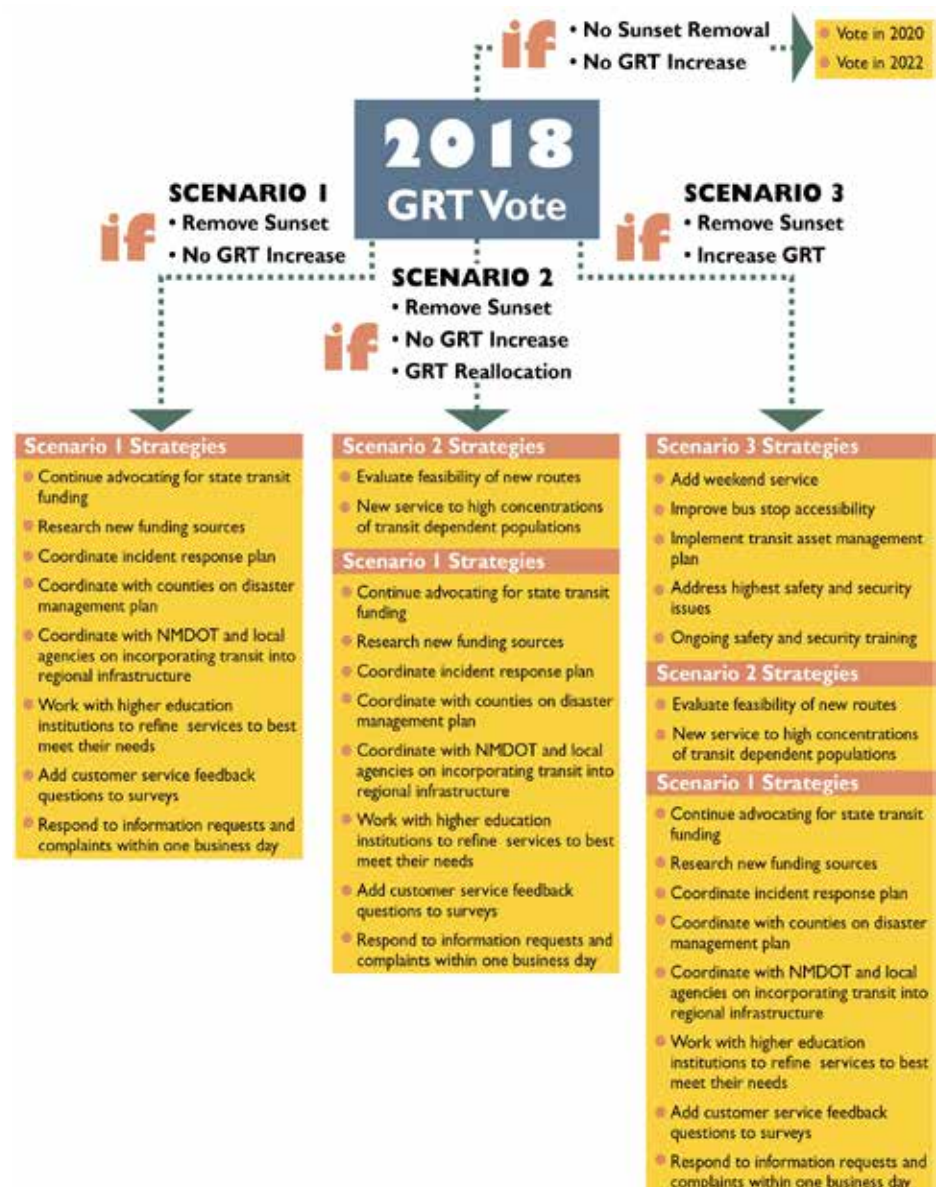
Throughout the process, NCRTD Staff and the Board set out to:

- Adopt a forward-thinking vision statement for the agency
- Update the agency's mission and goals statements
- Identify NCRTD's role in the region's economic development
- Better understand the cost and benefits of transit
- Learn more about the land use transportation connection
- Better understand the Housing + Transportation Affordability Index
- Identify present and future transit funding opportunities

Over the course of the nine months, stakeholders consistently spoke of the need to create a well-connected and accessible transit system; improve and expand services; increase workforce and resident access to education and higher-paying jobs; diversify funding sources; become a regional partner to positively influence land use practices; increase NCRTD's impact on economic development in the region; continue to collaborate with other transit providers in the region; provide first-rate customer service; protect the environment; and ensure momentum and accountability for implementation of the Strategic Plan.

As we move forward, we will need broad-based public support for this plan to be successful. On behalf of the NCRTD Board, Staff and many stakeholders, the continued involvement and support of our constituencies, and the use of our transit services during the implementation of this important Strategic Plan will be critical. Together, we can make a difference, making sure our regional transit services will continue to effectively meet the growing transportation needs in Northern New Mexico.

To view the Long Range Strategic Plan, please visit: www.NCRTD.org





The Taos Town Hall was the site for a ceremony that marked the coming together of the Taos Chile Line and the RTD "Blue Bus." After handing over the keys and unveiling the new identity for the RTD Chile Line, Town of Taos Mayor Daniel Barrone and NCRTD Chair (2nd from left), stood alongside the newly wrapped bus with David Harris (l.), Transit Bureau Chief, New Mexico Department of Transportation; NCRTD Vice Chair and Santa Fe County Commissioner, Miguel Chavez (2nd from right); and Anthony Mortillaro (r.), Executive Director, NCRTD.

THE RTD CHILE LINE IS LAUNCHED AS THE NCRTD CONSOLIDATES OPERATION OF THE TAOS CHILE LINE

The year 2015 was a time of expansion for the NCRTD. As the fiscal year was coming to a close, the NCRTD and the Town of Taos consolidated the operation of the Taos Chile Line and launched the RTD Chile Line on July 1.

The RTD Chile Line now provides fare-free bus transit service within the Town of Taos on the Red Route and UNM Taos Route, as well as seasonal fare-based premium service to the Taos Ski Valley. The RTD Chile RIDE (formerly the Handi-

Van) provides free paratransit service within the town to ADA pre-qualified residents.



Upon evaluation of fiscal and operational impacts of the consolidation, the two parties determined that it would be more cost-effective and efficient for the NCRTD to provide transit services on behalf of the Town. The consolidation of public transit services between the Town and the NCRTD is expected

to result in a retained cost savings for the Town of approximately \$187,000 annually.

The Regional Transit District Act authorizes the NCRTD to finance, operate, maintain and promote sustainable multi-modal transportation in North Central New Mexico, and this agreement is an example of governments working together to reduce costs and avoid duplication.

The NCRTD has provided regional transit services throughout Taos County with connecting options from those routes to the Chile Line for service within the Town. Those routes include Santa Fe, Española, Questa, Peñasco and Tres Piedras to Taos. On the District's Red River route, service to the Town is provided through a connection in Questa.

Provisions within the agreement include the transfer of all the Town's transit assets to the NCRTD including:

- Transition of the Chile Line Routes which includes the in-Town service called the Red Route, the UNM Taos Route to the UNM-Taos Klauer campus and the Taos Ski Valley seasonal premium service
- The NCRTD expects to operate the in-town and UNM routes and services essentially, as is, for one year before assessing any modifications to improve efficiency. Any modifications to the Taos Ski Valley will be determined between the NCRTD and Village of Taos Ski Valley. Any major changes to routes or services requires the approval of the NCRTD Board of Directors on which the Town of Taos is a member
- FTA Section 5311 monies or commitments allocated to the Town as well as the Town's matching contributions not yet expended. All funds are to be used solely for transit services in the Taos area. This also includes all other transit funding the Town has received from other sources that have not been expended
- The Chile Line transit vehicles, including any records regarding vehicle maintenance, maintenance schedules, accident reports and similar records
- The Town's transit storage yard, maintenance facility and office located on Dea Ln. in Taos
- The Town's Chile Line transit employees

The agreement adds 14 full- and part-time employees to the NCRTD which until that time employed 55.

Given the NCRTD's proven capacity to provide public transportation throughout the region, we are confident that our experience, competency and commitment to service excellence will provide a great service on behalf of the Town of Taos and its residents and visitors.

NCRTD ASSUMES OPERATION OF THE TAOS EXPRESS ON JANUARY 1



TaosExpress

In January, the NCRTD assumed operation of the Taos Express from the Town of Taos which became its first fare-based premium weekend express service. It operates between Santa Fe, Española and Taos.

The RTD Taos Express has long provided residents and visitors with weekend bus transit between Taos and Santa Fe. As an added service, the NCRTD initiated a stop in Española. The RTD Taos Express provides connecting service to the New Mexico Rail Runner Express, Santa Fe Trails bus system and Taos Chile Line.

This marks the first time that the NCRTD has provided a weekend service and unlike its 19 fixed routes which are free, the Taos Express operates on a fare system. The fare remained the same at \$5.00 each way between Taos and Santa Fe. Service to and from Taos and Española, and between Santa Fe and Española, is priced at \$2.00 per trip. Reservations are longer required and service is provided on a first come, first served basis.

Unveiling the new logo at an event held at the South Capitol Rail Runner Station, were (l. to r.) Santa Fe County Commissioner Miguel Chavez; NCRTD Planning, Projects and Grants Manager, Stacey McGuire; City of Santa Fe Councilor Patti Bushee; NCRTD Executive Director, Anthony Mortillaro; and Michael Kelly, NCRTD Transit and Facilities Operations Director.



THE RTD MOUNTAIN TRAIL ROUTE FROM DOWNTOWN SANTA FE TO SKI SANTA FE GAINS BOARD APPROVAL, LAUNCHES ON SEPTEMBER 26

As part of its continued expansion in FY2015, the North Central Regional Transit District Board of Directors approved the launch of the Mountain Trail route on September 26, 2015. The new route provides service from areas around downtown Santa Fe to recreational areas and businesses along NM 475 concluding at Ski Santa Fe.

The new service came about after a unique collaboration of public and private supporters were brought together to assist in funding the route. The financial sponsors include: the City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, Ski Santa Fe, Rio Metro RTD and the North Central Regional Transit District.

In addition to the above mentioned public and

private entities, additional participants in the discussions were the Pueblos of Tesuque and Nambé, the Santa Fe National Forest, Ski New Mexico, Tourism Santa Fe and Santa Fe MPO.

Throughout the discussions, the Pueblo of Tesuque and Nambé expressed concern that vast sections of the mountain remain sacred to Native Americans and that people accessing the mountain need to be made aware and sensitive to that. The NCRTD in acknowledging that concern and has worked with the Pueblo of Tesuque and Nambé to provide materials to inform riders to be respectful and to be stewards of the mountain.

The service will initially be offered on an eight-month

trial basis to assess the feasibility and use of the route.

The Mountain Trail route provides service from the South Capitol Rail Runner Station, through Downtown Santa Fe to Fort Marcy Park and then up Hyde Park Rd. to recreational areas and businesses along NM 475 concluding at Ski Santa Fe. Free park and ride options for local residents will be available at the South Capitol station and on the north side of Fort Marcy Park in two parking lots north and south of the bus stop located on Murales between Old Taos Highway and Bishop's Lodge Rd.

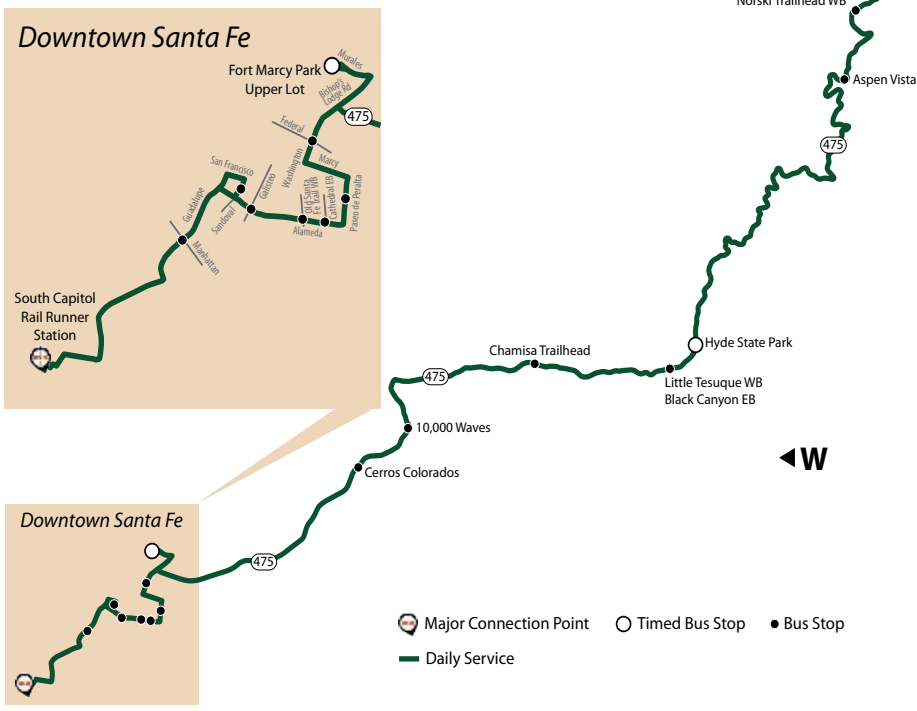
Safe and effective transit service had been at the forefront of the discussions taking place over the previous 18 months. The Mountain Trail route will result in fewer cars on the mountain road and provides residents and visitors with access to winter and summer recreation.

The service began on National Public Lands Day, September 26. It is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer effort for public lands.



255 Mountain Trail

Downtown Santa Fe

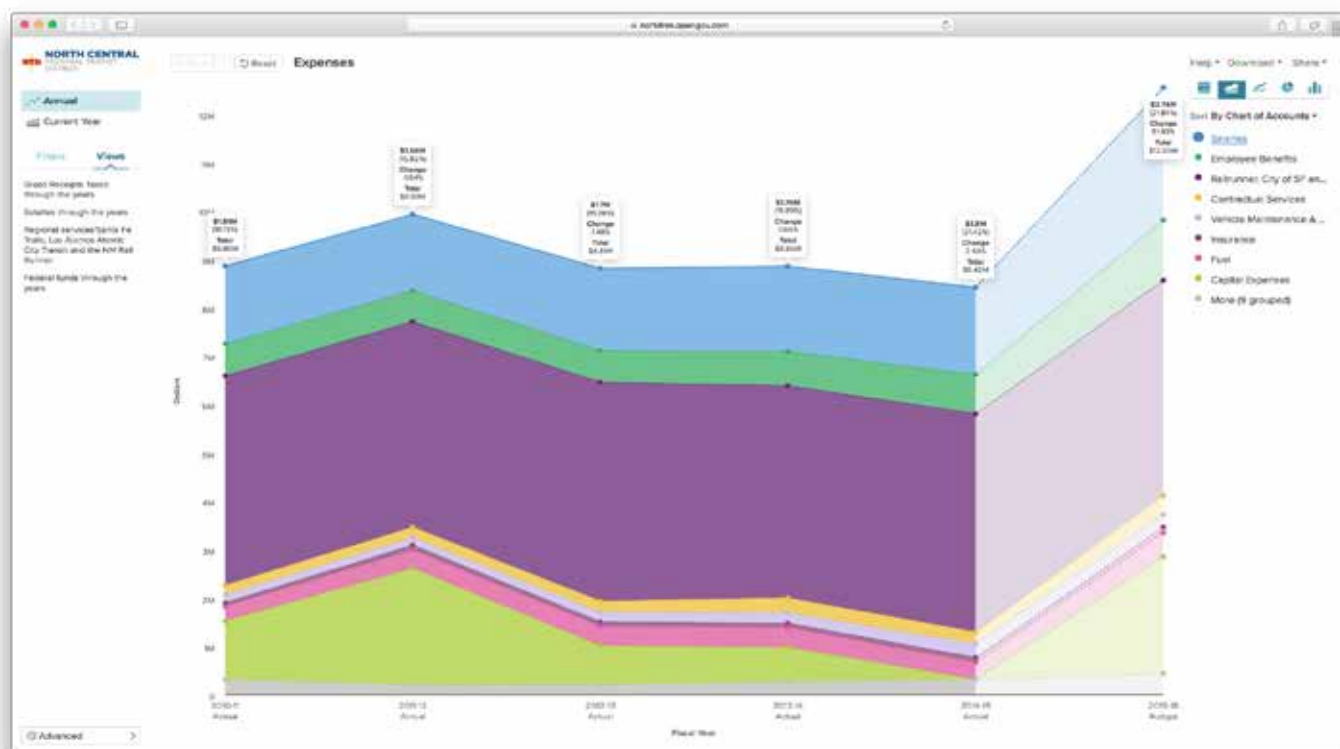


RTD NOW PROVIDING SERVICE TO FOUR NORTHERN NEW MEXICO SKI RESORTS

With the launch of the Mountain Trail route and the consolidation of the Chile Line, including its service to Taos Ski Valley, from the Town of Taos, the NCRTD this winter will provide service to a total of four northern New Mexico ski and snowboard resorts.

Winter sports enthusiasts will now have public transportation options to get from downtown Santa Fe to Ski Santa Fe. Downtown Taos will offer a host of options that can transport residents and visitors to Taos Ski Valley, Sipapu Ski and Summer Resort on its Peñasco route and Red River Ski Area on the Questa route out of the Town and a transfer onto the Red River route.





NCRTD'S COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY



In its commitment to clear and open government, the NCRTD has implemented a web-based financial transparency and accountability platform on its website ncrtd.org.

This year, the NCRTD contracted with OpenGov to create an interactive reporting tool that allows the public to explore the District's financial data online in easy-to-use graphical formats that can be selected and customized by the user. The system provides historical financial data from 2010 to the current year that can be analyzed on a monthly or annual basis and allow users to review data ranging from finite details to big picture. The system will provide details on expenditures and revenues, allowing visitors to break out everything from salaries, capital expenses, employee benefits,

fuel expenses, contractual services, vehicle maintenance, insurance and more.

OpenGov can be used internally to create custom reports, help operations manage to budget, keep administrators and legislators informed, and help with important workflows from the budgeting process to internal audits. Externally, the platform is used to publish interactive budgets, share information with the community, and even achieve revenue goals by disseminating important financial data.

The NCRTD Transparency and Accountability platform furthers our Board of Director's goal of having the District be looked up to as being among the most transparent government agencies in the state.



THE NCRTD RECEIVES NATIONAL AND STATEWIDE RECOGNITION FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN FY 2015

The North Central Regional Transit District was proud, in FY 2015, to have been recognized nationally by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and statewide by the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), which each bestowed its highest honors to the District.

FTA Acting Administrator, Therese McMillan, presented the NCRTD with the FTA Administrator's Award for Outstanding Public Service in Rural Transportation during the 21st National Conference on Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation conference in Monterey, California.

In a letter acknowledging the Award, the FTA stated that, "This year's award features rural transit providers who improved the mobility of Americans in rural areas, allowing them better access to employment, training, education and other services that provide 'Ladders of Opportunity.' North Central Regional Transit District's application successfully addressed all the evaluation criteria,

and demonstrated that its services are a vital link in building Ladders for your community."

David C. Harris, Transit Bureau Chief for the New Mexico Department of Transportation, nominated the NCRTD and in a letter stated, "I am honored to nominate the North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD) for the FTA Administrator's Award. To say that the NCRTD has more than fulfilled the tenets of the New Mexico Regional Transit District Act in its first ten years would not overstate its impact, not only on New Mexico, but more importantly on the communities it serves. It has developed into a model for rural transit within the State and beyond."

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is an agency within the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) that provides financial and technical assistance to local public transit systems. The FTA is one of ten modal administrations within the USDOT. Headed by an Administrator who is appointed by

the President of the United States, the FTA functions through a Washington, D.C., headquarters office and ten regional offices which assist transit agencies in all states, the District of Columbia, and the territories.

This year, the NCRTD was equally honored to have been the recipient of the NMDOT award for its FY 2014 Section 5311 Transit System of the Year.

"Over the last 10 years, the NCRTD has progressed exponentially and proved to be exemplary in its compliance of State and Federal transit requirements, as well as for having an ongoing record of safe, efficient and growing public transit service," commented David C. Harris, Transit Bureau Chief at NMDOT.

Section 5311 is the Federal Transit Administration's Rural Transit Assistance Program to meet the needs of transit operators in non-urbanized areas and the NMDOT oversees 21 subgrantees throughout the State of New Mexico.

FY2015 MARKED BY FLEET UPGRADES AND ADVANCEMENTS

In fiscal year 2015, the NCRTD continued to expand its fleet and replace older vehicles with newer and more efficient models to provide top service for the 184,320 trips on NCRTD operated vehicles in FY 2015 (NCRTD funded routes provided 317,616 trips*). RTD vehicles in, FY2015, logged in just under 1 million miles on its fixed and commuter routes throughout the more than 10,000 square mile district (larger than Maryland, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire or New Jersey). For this reason, the District remains committed to continually upgrade and enhance its fleet of 53 passenger vehicles.

There were seven vehicles purchased that will be placed into service in fiscal year 2016. Those include two 34-passenger vehicles, one 29-passenger vehicle, two 18-passenger vehicles and two 14-passenger vehicles.

The consolidation of the Taos Chile Line, now the RTD Chile Line, resulted

in nine vehicles coming under RTD ownership. The acquisition included a fleet maintenance yard located in the Town of Taos to provide service to vehicles based in the Town and in Taos County.

A contingency fleet of 20 percent is maintained at all times in accordance with FTA regulations and guidelines.

This year, the NCRTD made its first step in its commitment to converting its fleet to the utilization of alternative fuels and thereby increase the environmental sustainability of the District. As a result, two alternative fuel vehicles were among those purchased and will be delivered in FY2016; one 18-passenger to run on CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) and another 18-passenger to run on LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas). The goal is to test each fuel-type to determine the best option for the ultimate conversion of the entire fleet.

The NCRTD remains committed to the development of a Transit

Maintenance Facility, Vehicle Wash Bay and Fueling Station complex to be located at the District headquarters in Española, and continues the process for obtaining the funding to do so.

Investment in infrastructure remains a priority with 46 bus shelters installed at key stops. This year, a newly-designed shelter, was installed outside the Jim West Regional Transit Center, the RTD headquarters. Meant to serve as a prototype for future shelters, it includes solar lighting (a first for the District), a bench, trashcan and display case.

In FY2016, the NCRTD will purchase nine new replacement vehicles: four 14-passenger; four 13-passenger transit vans; and one 29-passenger.

*(*NCRTD funded routes include the NCRTD operated routes as well as regional routes funded by the Regional Transit Gross Receipts Tax and operated by Santa Fe Trails bus service and Los Alamos Atomic City Transit.)*



Inspection – as RTD takes delivery of a new 34-passenger bus

GETTING INTO THE COMMUNITY

Some of the community events we were proud to participate in this Fiscal Year included the Española holiday lights parade and the Los Alamos Winterfest parade in which we took second place in the event that had a "Frozen" theme.

Other events included the Taos Halloween Trunk or Treat, Transportation Day at the New Mexico State Capitol during the Legislative session and the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce Legislative Reception in which we are co-sponsors with Rio Metro RTD and Santa Fe Trails bus system.

A third annual holiday Giving Tree to support the children of the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department collected 50 gifts to help brighten the holidays for children in the area.



QUESTA-AREA SHELTERS SHOWCASE THE ART OF LOCAL STUDENTS IN NORTH TAOS COUNTY

Banners by local students were installed in four RTD (Blue Bus) shelters along the Questa route in support of the students and the "Luz es Vida - Light is Life" youth education program in Questa and the surrounding area.

During March and April over 220 students from Alta Vista, Costilla Academy, and Roots and Wings Community Schools, as well as some local homeschooling families, began painting 4' x 9' banners in workshops facilitated by LEAP (Land, Experience and Art of Place). Students were allowed to determine the content of their art and asked to create in the spirit of the "Luz es Vida - Light is Life" theme. The art pieces were unveiled at an Earth Day, youth-centered celebration at OCHO Art + Event Space.

"As our future Earth Stewards, the students were excited to use Earth Day and LEAP's 2015 theme "Luz es Vida" to inspire the creation of these beautiful pieces. We are proud of them and excited that we have a venue to share these works of art with the community," declared Claire Coté, Director at LEAP.

Locations include the RTD shelters at the Questa Chevron, Gonzales Rd. at NM 522, La Lama Rd. at NM 522, and Arroyo Hondo at NM 522 and Old Highway 3.

"Luz es Vida" is a themed series of events, projects and youth education programs in Questa and the surrounding areas. It is collaboratively organized by LEAP, US Forest Service Questa Ranger District, BLM Taos Field Office, Village of Questa Tourism, and other partners. The event series highlights and celebrates local knowledge, creativity, talent, and the natural and cultural heritage of our area.

The District was honored to be able to provide a platform to showcase the talent and creativity of these young artists. New Mexico State Highway 522 is now even more beautiful with the addition of these creative works of art!





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